

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 21, 1999 LB 605

the three-quarters cent that is contributed by the producers. That's what this amendment would do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The question is the Beutler amendment to the Stuhr amendment to LB 605. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 6 ayes, 17 nays on the amendment to the amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is not agreed to.

CLERK: Senator Beutler, I now have AM1370 as an amendment to Senator Stuhr's amendment. (AM1370, Legislative Journal page 1585.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, this is an amendment I attended would...intended to withdraw, but maybe we need to broaden the discussion some. This amendment would continue the \$1 per ton fertilizer tax that is being curtailed next year. It is a bill that went to the Revenue Committee, but it seemed to me particularly pertinent to this discussion because one of the very responsible things the fertilizer and fertilizer sellers and farm community generally had agreed to do at one point in time in the past was to put in some money from the industry that directly caused a lot of the problems out in the countryside as far as pollution is concerned. And now there seems to be...there seems to be a lost interest in having those who are responsible for pollution paying a share of the cost of the pollution. With this particular bill, what we're seeing is an encouragement, basically, to the production of corn and the more intensive production of corn, which is fine because that's profitable. But we're seeing incentives coming out of the General Fund for that purpose. We're seeing now a reduction in the producer contribution to that effort and now a reduction in the producer contribution or producer support for the fertilizer tax, and I just get the feeling that things are going very much in the wrong direction in terms of people taking responsibility for what I think are problems that are generated by particular